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AGRICULTU

AgRISTARS



AgRISTARS improved crop information will be used by AID to help farmers like this one in Senegal.

Proto: Agenou For International Development

By Norton D. Strommen U.S. Department of Agriculture (202) 447-5715

AgRISTARS - the Agricultural Resource Inventory Through Aerospace Remote Sensing - is a program designed to improve application techniques for satellite data to best meet the information needs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the American farmer, consumer, and businessman. Scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide AgRISTARS with expertise in agriculture, remote sensing, and meteorology. The Department of

Interior, through its EROS Data Center. will provide LANDSAT remote-sensed data. In addition, the Agency for International Development (AID) will monitor progress to determine the usefulness of the research results for application in developing countries.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goals of AgRISTARS are to determine the usefulness and costs of the application of aerospace remote-sensing technology to a wide (AgRISTARS, Continued on page 2)

TECHNICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS SCIENCE AND EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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(AgRISTARS, Continued from page 1) range of potential applications in agriculture. The program will emphasize the development of techniques to improve the objectivity, reliability, and timeliness of information needed to carry out the respective agency missions of USDA and AID. This will require the development of remote-sensed data interpretation capabilities to provide early warning and assessment of changes in crop conditions, to forecast crop production, and to assist in the inventorying of land, water, and other renewable resources.

APPROACH AND MANAGEMENT

The Agristars program is organized into eight project areas designed to meet the priority needs for improved agricultural information defined by the Secretary of Agriculture. These are:

- Early warning of events that may affect agricultural production (quality and quantity), and possibly impact other renewable resources.
- . Commodity production forecasting.
- Land use classification and measurement.
- Renewable resources inventory and assessment.
- . Land productivity estimates.
- · Conservation practice assessment.
- Pollution detection and impact evolution.

The five-agency planning effort for AgRISTARS, led by USDA, was implemented on October 1, 1979. The program will continue through September 1986. AgRISTARS will use the latest advances in remote-sensing and data processing technology.

APPLICATIONS

Agristars will address potential remote-sensing applications for eight

crops in seven countries. The initial research efforts will be tested and evaluated in the United States, where abundant ground truth information needed to verify results of new techniques are available. The technology will then be applied to foreign situations, where the greatest need for improved information exists. However, the need to improve domestic agricultural information is also great at the county and other substate levels, without having to ask farmers to complete more forms.

LANDSAT has demonstrated its ability to identify changes in forest cover, the condition of range lands, the effectiveness of conservation practices, and to measure the conversion of prime agriculture lands or citrus orchards to urban housing developments, as well as to monitor the impact of agricultural practices on water quality. NOAA's meteorological satellites have a demonstrated capability to monitor changing cloud cover (used to estimate solar radiation totals), identify areal extent of subfreezing temperatures in the citrus and winter vegetables regions, monitor changes in areal extent of snow cover, track intense storms, estimate precipitation amounts, and monitor areal extent of drought.

Agristans is designed to determine how remote sensing capabilities can be efficiently and effectively integrated with existing information systems to meet the growing need for improved agricultural information. The end user of Agristans products will include people in all walks of life. As the work progresses, Americans will more fully benefit from the new technologies that have been developed during the past 10 to 15 years.

^{*}Excerpted from EDIS: Environmental and Data Information Service. 11 (4): 9-11, July 1980.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEMS (ADS) PROJECT

Frank C. Child, Coordinator
Agricultural Development Systems - AID - Egypt
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The ADS/Egypt Project under the direction of the University of California, Davis, is beginning the third year of a five-year collaborative assistance contract with the Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt. The objective is to build and improve the capability of Egyptian institutions and personnel to plan and implement agriculture sector development. UCD will collaborate with Egypt in identifying agricultural problems and constraints, planning research, extension and development, and policy analysis.

Major efforts have been in horticulture: introduction of new varieties of tomatoes and fruit trees, study of ways to reduce post-harvest losses, and disease problems. A major thrust has been made towards introduction of new tomato varieties and development of additional cultivars, since tomatoes represent the highest value vegetable crop in Egypt. A similar effort is being made to introduce new varieties of citrus fruits, improve local varieties, and select more disease and saline resistent root stock. Other technology transfers include deciduous fruit, studies of mango inflorescence malformation, post-harvest deterioration of fruits and vegetables; introduction of new and more efficient methods of propagating olive trees, new methods of cotton seed de-linting, and a program in bee genetics.

Future programs include date palm propagation, methods of early detection of pregnancy in sheep, the feasibility of producing and marketing cut flowers in the Middle East and Europe, development of appropriate agricultural implements, establishment in Cairo of a central research library for agriculture, research studies in nutrition,

and livestock production, and health in community development.

A study on Egyptian agricultural law is nearing completion. However, fewer research activities, for which substantial funds have been allocated are in progress. Among those being undertaken or planned are a study of technological choice in agriculture, a study of the prospects for "food security" in a country which relies on substantial trade in unstable international markets, a study of the effect of alternative price policies on nutrition in rural areas, and a study of the introduction of pricing of water—a revolutionary idea in Egypt.

The total value of the contract is U.S. \$14.6 million and the equivalent of \$3.5 million in Egyptian pounds, the former from U.S. sources, the latter from the government of Egypt.

Bibliographic services to the Project are provided by the Agricultural History Center, U.C. Davis. It will tap into computerized records in AGRICOLA, the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaus, and others. An example of what can be done is the bibliography on Berseem (Egyptian clover) which is available in the Project Office Library.

Information developed as a result of this project will be published in a series of papers: (1) working paper series which will record the preliminary results of research, (2) research series for publication of in-house papers, (3) reprint series to include papers published in professional journals. Publications will be stocked and distributed from the Project Head Office in Cairo and from the Coordinator's Office, University of California, Davis.

Farmers With "Green Thumb" Have the Edge

Quick information day or night is the attraction of this revolutionary system.

Laurence "Buck" Teeter can see both Kentucky and Tennessee from the windows of his farm office near Guthrie, Ky. But by turning on his "Green Thumb Box," an even bigger world of information is available.

Teeter's ordinary television set now gives a bonus of up-to-date grain markets, extended weather forecasts localized to his needs, research findings, insect reports, and much more from a computer "menu" of up to 999 agricultural subjects. The small keyboard which gives commands is the Green Thumb Box.

Teeter is one of 100 participants from Todd County in a federally funded home information pilot project.
There are also 100 units in Shelby County, Ky.

The Green Thumb Box is described officially as a rapid market and weather delivery system, but Teeter says it's actually much more than that.

Example: One day this past spring, he asked the Green Thumb to give him information about tobacco diseases. In a matter of seconds, the screen flashed this: "Blue mold is continuing to move northward. There have been new sightings at Tifton, Ga..."

The computer network doesn't stop with just identifying the problem. It tells farmers what they should be doing.

By being hooked up directly to the county agent's office, the Green Thumb can give local recommendations, but it also has direct information from the University of Kentucky at Lexington. Because of this direct tie, farmers can work collectively to coordinate their pest management plans.

While explaining how his Green Thumb works, Teeter placed another request just as easily as you could get your favorite record on a juke box.

"It's now telling me that the Commodity Credit Corporation is expected to buy wheat and soybeans," Teeter says. "This is valuable information to me."

The Green Thumb gives farmers access to the same news a farm broadcaster might have at his fingertips on the wire services. With a touch of the keyboard, Teeter gets legislative news from Washington, USDA news, and the latest export information on the crops he grows.

What Teeter really likes is that he not only receives prices for corn, wheat, or soybeans from the major commodity markets, he can also find out current prices from elevators within a 100-mile area.

After ordering more information, Teeter reads the screen.

"It's telling me that today in western lowa, soybeans are selling at \$5.50 per bushel...but they're bringing \$6.25 at local southern Kentucky elevators," he says.

(GREEN THUMB, Continued on page 5)

^{*}Copyright by The Progressive Farmer Company, 1980. Reprinted from Progressive Farmer, August 1980.

(GREEN THUMB, Continued from page 4)

Teeter explains how the Green Thumb works: (1) the keyboard is plugged into the back of a television set on his desk; (2) his telephone is plugged into a jack which hooks it up with a computer at the county agent's office.

Operation is simple: (1) He turns on television set; (2) enters personal farmer identification number; (3) enters the numbers of the categories he wants to know about. For example, with one number he asked for a county weather forecast; (4) dials computer number using regular telephone dial; (5) after first buzz is heard, he pushes the "send" button; (6) after the second buzz, he hangs up the phone. This signals that his information is on the way.

As an example, Teeter punches 187, his personal identification number; then he orders these numbers off the menu: 301 for corn, 302 for wheat, 303 for soybeans, and 304 for grain outlook. Ordering all four takes only 15 seconds.

Commodity market and weather reports are updated every 15 minutes. In addition to such quick market information, Teeter says he can't overemphasize the importance of weather reports in farming.

"It's a much more localized weather service for my farming than I could get through normal channels."

An aide in the office of Senator Walter D. Huddleston (D-Ky.) is credited with doing the early work with farmers in Kentucky and Tennessee when Green Thumb was just an idea in 1977.

The test is scheduled to run until next February, according to Dr. John Ragland, associate director of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. He says that most farmers in the pilot group are just as happy with the Green Thumb boxes as Teeter is. So many details had to be worked out that the original startup date of October 1979, was postponed until this past March. There've been few problems now that the program is under way.

Ragland says that farmers have been most interested in information on markets and weather. During a 21-day period in April, the system handled 11,530 requests for information. Some 42% dealt with markets and another 38% with weather.

One farmer used a Green Thumb report to take advantage of a quick rise of 16 cents per bushel in the price of contracted soybeans. The market dropped soon after that and didn't recover for several weeks.

After the test period, Ragland expects the project to be continued in Todd and Shelby counties and expanded to other counties in Kentucky.

Tandy Corp., makers of the Green Thumb units, is so impressed with the Kentucky experience that it plans to market them nationwide under the name VIDEOTEX.

Outside of the Kentucky Green Thumb network, farmers, businessmen, and others will have access to CompuServe Information Service, a subsidiary of H&R Block, Inc.

VIDETEX subscribers can call up current news, weather, a daily newspaper, educational and financial programs, and other timely information simply by dialing their code over regular telephones. The information will be displayed on their regular television sets.

Owners of Radio Shack's TRS-80 microcomputer won't need the special (GREEN THUMB, Continued on page 12)

KELLOGG SOIL SCIENCE LIBRARY COLLECTION



A special collection of soil science publications, manuscripts, maps, slides, and unpublished journals from the personal library of the late Charles E. Kellogg, was recently donated to the National Agricultural Library (NAL) by his wife, Lucile Kellogg. Over the years, Kellogg, an internationally renowed soil scientist, adviser in soil science, speaker, and author of more than 170 articles and seven books, has been a strong supporter of NAL and was an active member and President of the Associates of NAL, Inc.

An avid book collector, Kellogg's foreign travels provided many opportunities for him to acquire important scientific publications in his area of discipline and research interest. Among the highlights are rare imprint edition copies of the following works: Lucius Moderatus Columella, Of Husbandry, 1745; Sir Humphry Davy, Elements of Agricultural Chemistry, 1813; Henri Louis Duhamel Du Monceau, A Practical Treatise of

Husbandry, 1759; Edmund Ruffin, A Essay on Calcareous Manures, 1832, 1853; Jethro Tull, Horse-Hoeing Husbandry, 1829; Thomas Tusser, Five Hundred Points of Good

Husbandry, 1812; Charles Vario, The Essence of Agriculture, 1786.

His typed and bound journals illustrated with the photos made on his trips along with inserted programs, place cards, and other ephemera constitute a record of the assistance he provided in solving soil problems on his foreign assignments. The collection also includes the published writings in many forms of Kellogg, including the popular text The Soils That Support Us (1941) and Agricultural Development: Soils, Food, People, Work (1975).

During his USDA career, Kellogg served as head of the National Cooperative Soil Survey from 1934 to 1971. He was the recipient of many awards including the Distinguished Service Citation and Gold Medal, U.S. Department of Agriculture (1950), the Distinguished Service Citations, Michigan State University (1955), and Honorary Doctor of Science degrees from the University of Gembloux, Belgium (1960), from North Dakota State University (1962), and from the University of Ghent, Belgium (1963).

L. JUNIUS MODERATUS COLUMELLA

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CONCERNING

T R E E S.

Translated into English, with several Illustrations from PLINY, CATO, VARRO, PALLADIUS, and other antient and modern AUTHORS.

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Ecclessiscus, Chap. VII. Ver. 15. Here met Huntverny, which the Most High both medium.

Vary, Georg. Lab. I.

Past 10fe colords

Houd faciliem esse visua voluit, primusque per artem

Moust agree, curis acums mertalia cordo.

Title-page of a rare book from the Kellogg collection

NEW PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE



FUEL ALCOHOL ON THE FARM, A PRIMER ON PRODUCTION AND USE. Washington, D.C., U.S. National Alcohol Fuels Commission, 1980. 37 p. Free. Request from Commission 412 First St., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND NUTRITION: ISSUES FOR PLANNING. Study by the Staff of the U.S. General Accounting Office. (Washington, D.C.) 1980. 69 p. (CED; 80-94). Single copies free from U.S. General Accounting Office, Distribution Section Room 1518, 441 G St., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20548. Mutiple copies @ \$1.00 per copy available from U.S. General Accounting Office, Distribution Section, P.O. Box 1020, Washington, D.C. 20013. Telephone orders accepted (202) 275-6241. Checks or money orders payable to U.S. General Accounting Office.

GROWTH IN ANIMALS. T.L.J. Lawrence. London, Butterworths (1980). 308 p. (Studies in the Agricultural and Food Sciences). \$52.95. ISBN 0-408-10638-7.



SEED PRODUCTION. P. D. Hebblethwaite. Proceedings of the Easter School in Agricultural Science, 28th, University of Nottingham, 1978. London, Butterworths, (1980). 694 p. \$99.95.

STATE INITIATIVES ON ALCOHOL FUELS.
A STATE-BY-STATE COMPENDIUM OF LAWS,
REGULATIONS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES
INVOLVING ALCOHOL FUELS. Washington,
D.C., United States National Alcohol
Fuels Commission, August 1980. 99 p.
Request from the Commission, 412 First
St., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.
Proceedings \$5.00 + .50 \(\) handling fee;
Suppl. \(\) \$3.00. Order from Publisher,
Attn: A. D. Worsham, Dept. of Crop
Science, Raleigh, NC 27650.

MINERAL NUTRITION OF FRUIT TREES. D. Atkinson, J. E. Jackson, R. O. Sharpies, W. M. Waller. London, Butterworth (1980). 435 p. \$79.50. ISBN 0-408-10662-X.

PLANT TISSUE CULTURE. PROCEEDINGS OF A SYMPOSIUM SPONSORED BY THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGISTS. New Orleans, 1979. 78 p. \$2.50. Order from John T. Barber, Biology Dept. Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118.

ENERGY USE MANAGEMENT

October 26-30, 1981: Third International Conference on Energy Use Management (ICEUM-III) Berlin. Cosponsored by Commission of European Communities, OECD, U.S. Department of Energy and others. A call for papers has been issued. Send 250 word abstracts to:

OΓ

B. A. Stout Agricultural Engineering Department Michigan State University East Lansing, Michigan 48824 Horst Gohlich
Technische Universitat Berlin
Institut fur Maschinenkonstruction
Zoppoter Street 35
1000 Berlin 33
West Berlin

Abstracts Due: December 15, 1980; Papers Due: May 15, 1981

QUICK BIBLIOGRAPHY SERIES

The bibliographies in this series are primarily computerized online or batch bibliographies emanating from searches performed by the IIS Reference Staff in response to customer requests.

Searches are selected for inclusion based on the currency of the topic, interest among clientele, relative length (approximately 150 citations or more) and probable value to a larger audience. All titles in this series will be listed for six months. Revisions or updates will be renumbered and reannounced. Only one copy of a title will be sent; however, requestors may make copies. To request a copy of a Quick Bibliography send the title, series number, and a return addressed label to:

Reference Branch Technical Information Systems, SEA, USDA NAL Bldg., Room 302 Beltsville, MD 20705

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 Raising, Uses, Beneficial Aspects,
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P.O. Box 229, Monticello, IL 61856.
Cost: \$1.50. (NAL call no.:
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Drip Irrigation, 1970-1979. (TVA Bibliography No. 1645). April 1980. 15 p. 200 citations.

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Control, Dept. of Agricultural
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Liverpool, Liverpool University Press.
s.-a. Vol. 1, 1979- HT390.15

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Impact of Backcountry Recreation on Soils and Vegetation and Means of Rehabilitation: An Annotated Bibliography. David N. Cole, Compiler. For information contact: Compiler, Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Drawer G, Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, USDA, Forest Service, Missoula, MT 59806.

Marketing Concepts Can Contribute to
More Successful Forest & Environmental
Interpretation Programs: An Annotated
Bibliography. Muriel E. More,
Compiler. For information contact:
David Linton, Information Office,
Northeastern Forest Experiment Station,
USDA, Forest Service, 370 Reed Rd.,
Broomall, PA 19008.

OBERLY AWARD NOMINATIONS SOLICITED

Nominations for the 1981 Oberly Award for Bibliography in the Agricultural Sciences should be submitted by January 1, 1981, to: John Beecher, Chair, Oberly Award Committee, Agriculture Library, 226 Mumford Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, 1L 61801. Nominations will be assessed by a five-person committee of the ACRL Science and Technology Section.

The Oberly Award is presented biennially (in odd-numbered years) for the best bibliography in the field of agriculture or the related sciences compiled in the two-year period preceding the year in which the award is made. Bibliographies are judged on accuracy, scope, usefulness, format, and special features such as explanatory introductions, annotations, and indexes.

AGRICULTURAL TRANSLATIONS



Technical Information Systems reviews titles before translations are made in order to avoid duplication within USDA. We also receive copies on deposit often far in advance of their listings in the standard bibliographic tools. This column is an alert to selected new receipts at TIS. These items are available to USDA personnel upon presentation of a loan request (AD-245) with the identification: TRANS. No. ______ along with the citation. Non-USDA persons may request photo-duplication at the rate of \$2 for each 10 pages or fraction thereof per citation. TRANS. No. _____ MUST be on the request. Both types of requests should be sent to:

Lending Division, Technical Information Systems
National Agricultural Library Building
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

The Technical Translation Number-will also be cited for those translations prepared for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Science Foundation under the P.L. 480 program. Copies of these translations may also be ordered from the National Translation Center, John Crerar Library, 35 West 33rd Street. Chicago, IL 60616.

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AGRICULTURE DATEBOOK



March 1981: Energy Technology Conference & Exhibition. Washington Sheraton Hotel, Washington, D.C. Contact: Martin Heavner, 4733 Bethesda Ave., Washington, D.C. 20014.

May 4-8: American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, Inc. Annual Meeting. San Francisco, Calif. Contact: Hadley Osborn, Director, Filoli Center, Canada Rd., Woodside, CA 94062. Telephone: (415) 364-8300.

May 5-8: Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries. 13th Annual Meeting. San Francisco, Calif. Contact: Jane Gates, Librn., Strybing Arboretum Society, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way, San Francisco, CA 94122 Telephone: (415) 661-1316.

May 31-June 4: American Society of Biological Chemists. St. Louis, Mo. Contact: S.K. Herlitz Inc., 850 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

June 15:24: XIV International Grassland Congress. University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky. Contact: John E. Baylor, Agricultural Science Center, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546.

June 18-22: American Association of Nurseryman. Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact: Robert F. Lederer, 230 Southern Building, Washington, D.C. 20005.

July 26-30: American Society of Animal Science. North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C. Contact: David C. England, Oregon State University, Animal Science Department, Corvallis, OR 97330.

August 2-6: American Phytopathological Society, New Orleans, La. Contact:
R. J. Tarleton, APS, 3340 Pilot Knob
Rd., St. Paul, MN 55121.

(GREEN THUMB, Continued from page 5)
terminal. Instead, a low-cost software
package will permit them to call up the
CompuServe programs on their microcomputers. Phil R. North, chairman of
Tandy Corp., says that VIDEOTEX will
also work with other microcomputers.

North says the software package to convert TRS-80 computers will cost about \$30 and that the VIDEOTEX terminal will cost under \$400. Distribution will be through Radio Shack Computer Centers and Radio Shack stores and dealers.



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